

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 15**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2002-009**  
**DATE: August 28, 2002    TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms, Flooding - Severe thunderstorms have produced heavy rain, gusty winds, hail and flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Thus far, a total of five injuries, due to summer storm activity, have been reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. DAMAGES: In Walsh County, a 20-30 square mile area surrounding the city of Park River received up to 12 inches of rain on August 27-28. County and township roads were inundated and North Dakota Highway 17 at the junction of State Highway 32 was covered with 2.5 feet of water, which has since receded from the road surface. In the city of Park River, the capacity of lift stations was overcome and sewage backup occurred. Approximately 50-60 city residents encountered water in their basements. Four homeowners reported water reaching the floor joists.

The cities of Minto and Grafton recorded up to 4.5 inches. The National Weather Service (NWS) indicated crest levels on the Forest River at Minto are expected to reach 9.5 feet on August 29; flood stage is six feet. The bridge on U.S. Highway 81 near Minto is threatened at 10.4 feet. The NWS also indicated releases by St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) from Homme Dam will be increased and crest levels on the Park River at Grafton are expected to reach between 14 and 15 feet. At those levels, some streets and homes will be impacted as well as the sewage treatment plant. At 15.5 feet, U.S. Highway 81 is affected.

Pembina County officials have reported sporadic hail damage to crops and up to three and one half inches of rain in the St. Thomas, Neche, and Drayton areas during recent storms.

The United States Department of Agriculture issued a Flash Situation Report indicating excessive rain and hail in Ramsey County August 27-28 affected 8,700 acres of cropland but damage was minimal.

On August 28, the level of Devils Lake measured 1,447.24 feet and Stump Lake measured 1,413.68 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: The Walsh County Emergency Operations Plan was activated.

STATE: See Major Actions.

FEDERAL: The USACE is providing pumps, technical assistance and is monitoring operations at Homme Dam on the Park River.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross is providing clean-up kits for Walsh County residents whose homes were impacted.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Lt. Governor and a staff member met with local officials to review the flooding impacts in Grafton, Park River, and rural Walsh County.

Walsh County, the USACE, and the cities of Grafton and Drayton provided pumps to the city of Park River to assist lift station operations.

Early on August 28, the N.D. Department of Health staff provided technical assistance to the city of Park River with discharge permit questions related to its decision to bypass the master lift station, which was unable to keep up with inflow.

On August 28, the Walsh County Commission and city of Park River officials issued disaster declarations for their respective jurisdictions.

Personnel from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, the National Guard, the State Water Commission, the Department of Human Services, the State Highway Patrol, State Radio Communications, and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management were activated and conducted operations in the State Emergency Operations Center to gather information, determine needs, and coordinate state response actions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Not determined at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: USACE
9. OTHER: Thus far, 274 cases of Equine West Nile Virus have been confirmed in 46 North Dakota counties.

Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director